

January 18, 2005

PUBLIC NOTICE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA
Clerk of Court, Richard D. Sletten
300 South Fourth Street, Suite 202
Minneapolis MN 55415
(612) 664-5026

FEDERAL COURT PROPOSES TO AMEND LOCAL RULES

The U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota has approved several proposed amendments to the Court's Local Rules of practice. The rule changes, which will affect Local Rules ("LR") 7.1, 72.1 and 72.2, were recommended by the Court's Federal Practice Committee, chaired by Minneapolis Attorney Jeff Keyes of the Briggs and Morgan law firm. Briefly summarized, these proposed amendments will provide as follows:

(1) Proposed Amendments to LR 7.1(c) and (e) The proposed amendments to LR 7.1(c) and (e) pertain to the permissible length of a memorandum filed in connection with a motion. The proposed amendments will impose a maximum word limit on such memoranda, in place of the current maximum page limit. Generally speaking, no party may file a memorandum that exceeds 12,000 words, and a "reply memorandum" may not exceed the unused portion of the 12,000-word limit on the party's initial memorandum. All memoranda must be (i) typewritten in at least a size 13 font, (ii) double spaced, (except for headings, footnotes and quotations), and (iii) submitted on 8½" by 11" paper with at least 1" margins on all four sides. In addition, every memorandum must be accompanied by a certificate signed by the filer, which verifies that the memorandum complies with the word-count limits and other stylistic requirements of the Local Rules.

(2) Proposed Amendments to LR 72.1 and 72.2 The proposed amendments to LR 72.1 and 72.2 pertain to the duties and authority of Magistrate Judges, and the procedures by which their rulings may be reviewed. The revised LR 72.1, ("Magistrate Judge Duties"), will more accurately describe the work performed by the Magistrate Judges in this District. The revised LR 72.2, ("Review of Magistrate Judge Rulings"), updates the procedures to be followed when a party seeks review of a Magistrate Judge's ruling in (i) "non-dispositive matters," (ii) "dispositive matters," and (iii) cases that are fully adjudicated by a Magistrate Judge upon the consent of the parties.

The full text of the proposed amendments can be obtained by accessing the District Court's website at www.mnd.uscourts.gov, by visiting or calling the Office of the Clerk of Court in St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth or Fergus Falls. As required by federal statute, the proposed amendments will be posted by the Court for public review and comment through **February 18, 2005**. Comments should be provided in writing to the Clerk of Court at the address above, or by e-mail to MnFedRules@mnd.uscourts.gov. The rules will be adopted by the full Court following consideration of any comments or suggestions received by the Clerk of Court during the public notice period.